



Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

Release Highlights: December 22, 2005

MONTANA

<http://ceic.mt.gov/EstimatesStatePop.htm>

State Population Estimates

The Census Bureau just released the 2005 population estimates for all states. The figures show Montana gaining 8,750 people for a total of 935,670. This represents a 0.9% increase since 2004, and a 3.7% increase from the 2000 figure that put Montana above the 900,000 mark. National growth, in essence, added three new "Montanas" to our nation, increasing 2.8 million people since 2004 (0.9%).

Natural Growth and In-Migration

Montana, like most states, had more births than deaths, with 11,219 new Montanans being born this year. Yet this represents a net gain of only 2,467. Growth continues to be fueled by in-migration to the state, with a net 6,334 persons moving to Montana in the last year.

For super size growing pains look to Florida and Texas, both of which saw net in-migration at a pace of 349,733 and 160,534 respectively. Thirteen states had more people move out than in, mostly in the Midwest and East. The top three states with a population loss were New York at -123,827, Massachusetts at -33,538, and Michigan at -27,985 (Ohio rivals Michigan in more than just football, losing 27,644 persons themselves).

How Montana's Growth Compares Nationally

As a percentage, Montana ranks 19th nationally in growth since 2004, and 24th since 2000. The three fastest growing states since 2004 are all western: Nevada, Arizona, and Idaho. Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island all saw negative growth to come in at the bottom three for percentage growth since 2004. The South now accounts for 36% of the nation's population, the West 23%, the Midwest 22% and the Northeast 18%.

An interesting comparison is to look at Montana's neighbors. As mentioned, Idaho tops the list with 33,956 new residents since last year, a 2.4% increase, while North Dakota added 369 new persons for a 0.1% increase

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RECENTLY RELEASED

December 21, 2005
2006 Statistical Abstract of
the United States

December 20, 2005
State Personal Income, 3rd
Quarter 2005

November 18, 2005
CEIC Fall Newsletter

October 26, 2005
Gross State Product,
Revised 2004 Estimates

October 13, 2005
2004 Population Estimates

October 6, 2005
Nonemployer Statistics

UPCOMING RELEASES

Late December, 2005
Consolidate Federal Funds
Report, 2004